

Molala language

Molala (Molele, Molalla) is the extinct and poorly attested Plateau Penutian language of the Molala people of Oregon and Washington. It is first attested along the Deschutes River, and later moved to the Molalla and Santiam rivers, and to the headwaters of the Umpqua and Rogue rivers. It was once thought to be close to Cayuse.

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	Molala
	Molale
Native to	United States
Region	Central Oregon and Washington
Ethnicity	Molala people
Extinct	1958 ^[1] <div>with the death of Fred Yelkes (1885–1958)^[2]</div>
Language family	Plateau Penutian <div>▪ Molala</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	mbe
Glottolog	mola1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mola1238) ^[3]

Dialects

There were three known dialects:

- Northern Molala, spoken in southern Oregon in the Cascade Range
- Upper Santiam Molala, spoken along the upper Santiam River in the Cascades in central Oregon.
- Southern Molala, spoken in southern Oregon in the Cascade Range

Phonology

The phonology of the Molala language:

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Lateral</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Uvular</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>plain</u>	p	t			k	q	ʔ
	<u>aspirated</u>	p ^h	t ^h			k ^h	q ^h	
	<u>ejective</u>	pʼ	tʼ			kʼ	qʼ	
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n			ŋ		
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>plain</u>		ts	tʃ				
	<u>ejective</u>		tsʼ					
<u>Fricative</u>		ɸ	s	ʃ		x		h
<u>Approximant</u>		w		l	j			

Vowels

	Short	Long
<u>Close</u>	i	iː
<u>Open</u>	a~e	aː
<u>Back</u>	u	uː

/i/ and /a/ can also shift to /ə/.^[4]

Grammar

Molala is a verb-heavy polysynthetic language.

Case

Molala nouns have seven cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, instrumental, locative, allative, and ablative.

References

1. Molala (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mbe/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. "Atlas of Languages of Intercultural Communication in the Pacific, Asia, and ... - Google Books" (<https://books.google.com/books?id=gIU0vte5gSkC&pg=PA1148>). *google.co.in*. Retrieved 7 March 2015.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Molale" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mola1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Berman, Howard (1996). *International Journal of American Linguistics Vol. 62, No. 1*. The University of Chicago Press. pp. 3–5.

External links

- Molale (Molalla) (<http://www.native-languages.org/molale.htm>)

- [OLAC resources in and about the Molale language \(http://www.language-archives.org/language/mbe\)](http://www.language-archives.org/language/mbe)
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